



Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

SITE EVALUATIONS

SPCSA presentation to Board
November 2018

OVERVIEW

I. Site Evaluations –Purpose

II. Site Evaluations – Progress to Date

III. Site Evaluations – The Plan

IV. Next Steps

V. Questions

SITE EVALUATIONS – PURPOSE

➤ PURPOSE OF SITE EVALUATIONS

- To exercise oversight, gather formal and anecdotal evidence
- SPCSA's monitoring of its schools
- Document progress toward goals outlined in schools' charter to ensure accountability as a state-authorized, public school

➤ FOCUS OF SITE EVALUATIONS

- Academic Performance
- Organizational effectiveness of the school
- Adherence to the approved charter and charter contract with the Authority

➤ BEST PRACTICES OF WELL-ESTABLISHED, HIGHLY-RECOGNIZED AUTHORIZERS

- Colorado Charter School Institute; District of Columbia Public Charter School Board; Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education; SUNY (State University of New York) Charter Schools Institute

Evidence gathered during Site Evaluations is ultimately used by the staff in its recommendations for renewal and by the Authority for a renewal decision.

SITE EVALUATIONS - PROGRESS TO DATE

- Planning for Site Evaluations began: July 2018
 - Sandra joined staff and was tasked with Site Evaluations as a priority: July 2
 - Call with SUNY's Charter School Institute (State University of New York) re site evaluations: July 10
 - Team Meetings and SWOT Analysis related to Site Evaluations: July 18 & 27
- 1st draft to SPCSA ED & Director of Authorizing: August 15
- Revisions (v2.0) sent: September 7
- Presentation to SPCSA Executive Committee: September 26
- NACSA (National Association of Charter School Authorizers) workshop on Site Evaluations: September 27
- Revisions (v3.0) sent: October 2

SITE EVALUATIONS - PROGRESS TO DATE

- Conversation with Director of Budget & Finance re budget related to Site Evaluations: October 9
- CSAN (Charter School Association of Nevada) outreach for feedback: October 5, October 10
- ASD outreach for feedback: October 10
- 2nd presentation to SPCSA Executive Committee: October 12
- Responses *from* CSAN leaders: October 15, October 16, October 24
- Follow-up and summary of responses *to* CSAN leaders: October 30
- V4 revisions to Director of Authorizing and Deputy Director, Interim ED: November 14
- Present to Board: November 30

CSAN ENGAGEMENT

- Conducted in the spirit of collaboration
- Help us identify any aspects of Site Evaluations we had not considered
- Feedback from school leaders:
 1. We heard loud and clear on ensuring SPCSA team has shared training and Site Evaluations are intentional
 - Dec 3 & 10 trainings
 - Regular, continuous trainings as a team
 2. Formal feedback from schools
 - 2-4 weeks from site evaluation
 - Response time for schools for submission to public records
 3. Requests of school for information
 - SPCSA will use what is available on Epicenter whenever practical and possible so as to not duplicate efforts

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

Site Evaluations \neq Site Support

Site Evaluations \rightarrow Site Support

- Site Evaluations are **not** the same as Site Support Visits. BUT, they may lead to Site Support Visits depending on needs identified during Evaluations.
- **Site Evaluations** are more **evaluative appraisals** aligned with charter contract and school's purpose for being. Oversight in nature. **The WHAT of schools.**
 - Targeted in Years 1, 3, 5
 - Years 6 for high-need, low-performing schools at-risk of not being renewed
 - Potential for correctional follow up by SPCSA
- **Site Support Visits** are meant to **provide guidance and assistance**. No related evaluative measures. **Help with the HOW of schools.**
 - On-going, annual
 - Based on school's needs, staff's support strengths
 - Non-punitive

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

➤ Site Evaluations are **not**:

- Model agnostic attitudes
- Micromanagement opportunities
- Affronts to school autonomy

➤ Site Evaluations **are**:

- An opportunity to triangulate reports and data with qualitative information
- An opportunity to build/strengthen relationships with operators
- Opportunities to ‘look under the hood’
 - Help schools ‘tune-up’ practices to fulfill charter and meet needs of all students
- Checks on the **what**
 - Alignment to charter and charter contract

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

- Site Evaluations are conducted by the Authorization team of the SPCSA
- Focus of Site Evaluations in schools' Years 1, 3, & 5
 - Year 1: Initial Site Evaluation
 - Ensure new school has a strong start that sets it up for long-term success; Identify any challenges that could be detrimental to the school meeting its goals
 - Year 3: Site Evaluation
 - Evaluate school's progress, student achievement, and alignment to mission
 - Year 5: Pre-Renewal Site Evaluation
 - Opportunity to identify key needs and urgent changes for schools that have shown inconsistent student achievement or have been consistently underperforming
- Years 6 for low-performing schools facing renewal
- Years 2 & 4 for any high-needs schools

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

- Visits are conducted September through April
 - Mindful of first month of school - culture and systems building for students and staff
 - Last month of school - testing and end-of-year activities
- Start January 2019 with 15 schools through April
- Three possible dates proposed by schools within given month for Site Evaluation
 - Align with schools' calendars and SPCSA calendar, including charter application process
- SPCSA Authorizing Team sets dates & communicates with schools
 - Based on multiple factors – other schools' availability, school breaks/vacations, SPCSA staff available within given month

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

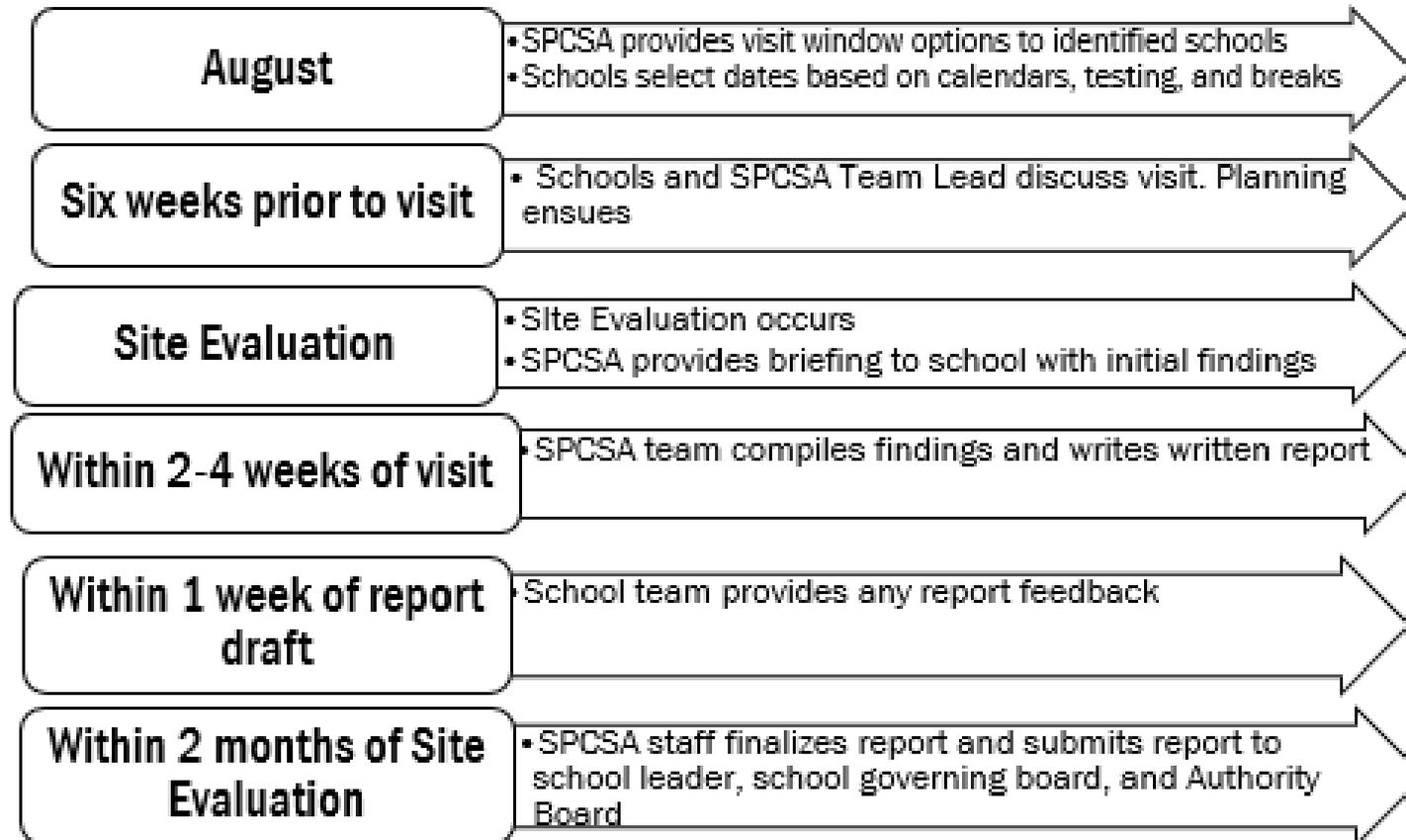
- Requests of school for data points and information
 - SPCSA will use what is available on Epicenter whenever practical and possible
- All visits scheduled in August for the range of the school year
 - Ensure a plan for the year for both SPCSA staff and schools
- Prioritize schools in operating Years 1, 3, and 5 of charter contract
 - Length of authorization and number of renewed contracts moot for purposes of scheduled visits
 - Schools will get a Site Evaluation every other year
 - Needs of schools will increase evaluative visits (i.e., Year 6 visits)

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

- Site Evaluations are .5 days to 2 days
 - Dependent on number of campuses of an authorized school
 - School needs/Star Rating
 - Previously issued Notices of Concerns, Breach
- Teams of 2-4 staff from the SPCSA Authorizing team
 - Training, Alignment, Collaboration
 - Initial team training: December 3 and December 10
- Pre-work from schools
 - Gathering of documents not available in Epicenter
 - Outreach, with support from SPCSA, to focus groups (i.e., families, selected staff, students)
 - Asking only for information we don't already have; don't want to duplicate work
- On-site visits
 - Focus groups, data collection, observation of instruction
 - All grounded in common best practices of leading authorizers

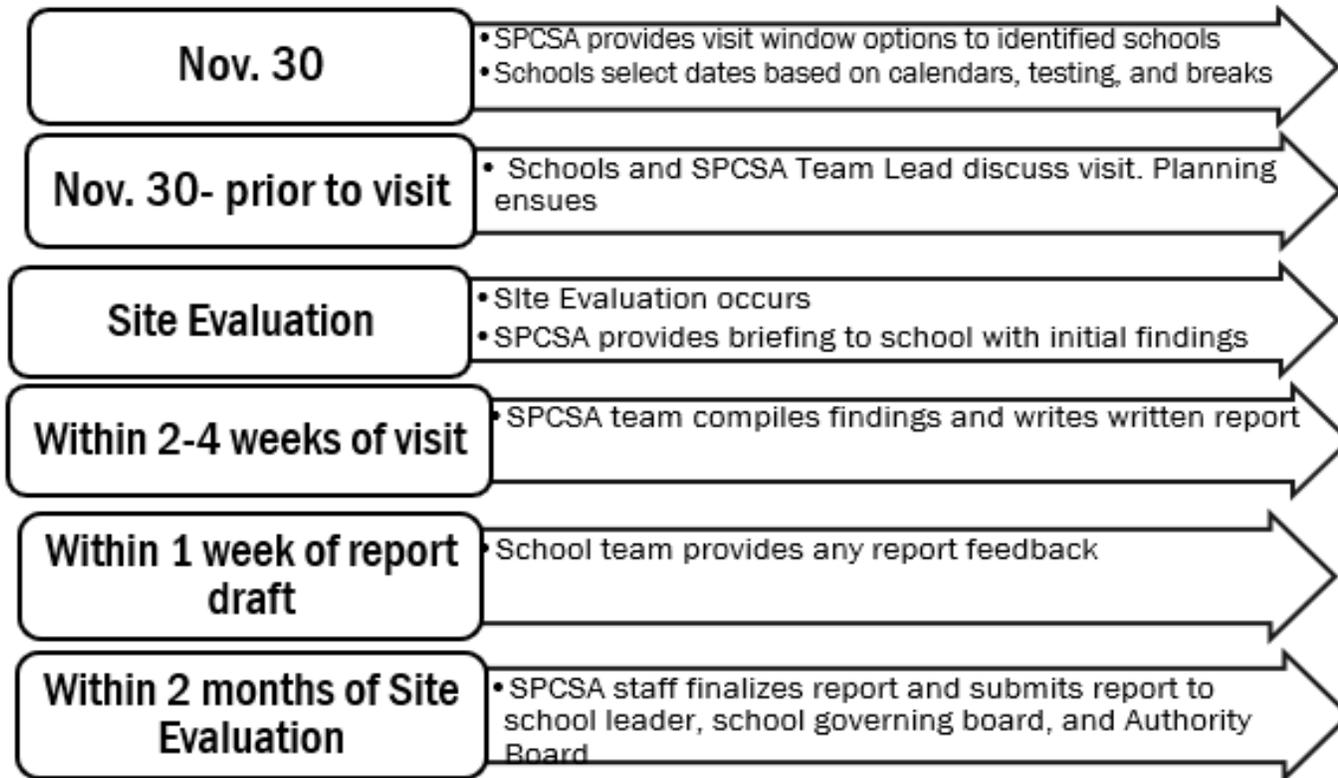
SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

ANNUAL VISIT PROCESS



SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

VISIT PROCESS FOR THIS YEAR



SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

➤ Pre-Opening Readiness Checks

- Conducted within two weeks prior to the first day of instruction

➤ Initial Site Evaluations

- Conducted in the fall of Year 1
- Ensures the new school has a strong start that sets it up for long-term success
- SPCSA team assesses any early challenges that could be detrimental to the school's goals & purpose

➤ Site Evaluations

- Typically conducted Years 1, 3, 5
- Focuses on the academic performance and organizational effectiveness components of the school, and includes classroom observations, focus groups, and detailed data analysis of student achievement
- Visits provide evidence for renewal and recommendations to the Board for decision making

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

➤ Pre-Renewal Site Evaluations

- Later months of Year 5, prior to anticipated renewal applications in Year 6
- Typically, with schools that have shown inconsistent student achievement or have consistently underperformed
- Provides the Authority and the school an opportunity to identify urgent needs and critical changes that would strengthen the school's application for renewal.

➤ Renewal Site Evaluations

- Conducted during the renewal process for schools in Years 5 or 6
- Renewal Visit is designed to assess the school's accomplishment of goals outlined in its charter, student achievement, and overall success
- Focus for the Authorization team of the SPCSA is on the academic performance and organizational effectiveness of the school, with an emphasis on analysis for recommendation for renewal

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

➤ Support Visits

- On-going annually and led by the Authority's School Support division
- Designed to help schools with specific needs and targeted support
- Initiated by both the school's request and by the School Support team of the Authority

➤ Not Part of Site Evaluations

- Information SPCSA staff collects from Site Support Visits is not provided to Site Evaluation staffers unless there's something egregious or noteworthy requiring follow-up
- Essentially, a firewall exists between the teams

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

PLANNED WINTER - SPRING 2019

Month	School(s)	Type of Visit	Star/Year
January (4)	Beacon	Pre-Renewal Site Evaluation	1 star – Year 5
	Mater Academy – Mt. Vista	Site Evaluation	3 stars -Year 5
	NCA (online)	Pre-Renewal	1 star – Year 5
	Mater Academy of Northern Nevada	Site Evaluation	1 star – Year 2
February (4)	Equipo	Site Evaluation	3 stars – Year 4
	Quest	Pre-Renewal Site Evaluation	2-3 stars – Year 5
	Freedom Classical (previously ALA)	Site Evaluation	2 stars – Year 3
	Leadership Academy (online)	Pre-Renewal Site Evaluation	2-3 stars – Year 5
March (3)	Founders	Pre-Renewal Site Evaluation	2 &3 stars – Year 5
	Legacy Traditional	Site Evaluation	2 stars – Year 3
	American Preparatory Academy (APA)	Renewal Site Evaluation	5 stars – Year 5
April (4)	SLAM	Site Evaluation	2 stars – Year 3
	Somerset		
	- North Las Vegas ES	Site Evaluation	- 2 stars - Year 5
	- SkyPointe ES		- 5 stars - Year 5
	Honors Academy	Site Evaluation	5 stars -Year 1
	Nevada State High School	Site Evaluation	5 stars

SITE EVALUATIONS – THE PLAN

PROPOSED 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Month	School(s)	Type of Visit	Star/Year
July/August	ALA – Summerlin (Henderson)	Pre-Opening Readiness Check – 2 weeks prior to first day of school	Approaching Year 1
September	Elko	Site Evaluation	3 & 5 stars - Year 5
	Leadership Academy	Renewal Site Evaluation	2 stars – Year 6
October	Founders	Renewal Site Evaluation	2 & 3 stars – Year 6
	ALA – Henderson	Site Evaluation	Year 1
	Quest	Renewal Site Evaluation	2 & 3 stars – Year 6
November	Beacon	Renewal Site Evaluation	1 star - Year 6
	Alpine	Site Evaluation	4 stars - Year 5
December	Discovery	Site Evaluation	3- 5 stars - Year 3
	Imagine School at Mountain View	Site Evaluation	3 stars - Year 3
	Nevada Virtual	Site Evaluation	1- 3 stars - Year 1R
January	Somerset - 2 campuses - dependent on star ratings	Pre-Renewal Site Evaluation	3-5 stars - Year 3
	Doral Academy	Site Evaluation	3-5 stars - Year 1R
	Pinecrest Academy	Site Evaluation	5 stars - Year 2
February	Doral Academy of Northern Nevada	Site Evaluation	5 stars - Year 3
	Mater Academy of Northern Nevada	Site Evaluation	1 star - Year 3
	Oasis Academy	Site Evaluation	5 stars - Year 3
March	Learning Bridge Charter School	Site Evaluation	2-3 stars - Year 1R
	Silver Sands	Site Evaluation	4 stars - Year 5
	Coral Academy	Site Evaluation	4 & 5 stars - Year 1R
April	Dependent on NSPF ratings for 2018-19; may include Pre-Renewal Site Evaluations or Site Evaluations based on Notices		

NEXT STEPS

- Email all schools with the Handbook [11.30]
- Email schools identified for a 2018-19 Site Evaluation [11.30]
 - 15 schools between January & April
 - All schools in the portfolio by April 2020
- Train the Authorizing Team on the protocol and process
 - 12.03 & 12.10 → ≈ 7 hours of training
 - Ongoing training as needed for alignment
 - End of school year training in June → improvements and strengths from 2018-19 school year
 - Continued review and fine-tuning based on best practice
- Begin Site Evaluations in January
 - Beacon Academy
 - Mater Academy (Las Vegas)
 - Mater Academy of Northern Nevada
 - Nevada Connections Academy (online)
- Provide Board updates based on visit cycle and process

QUESTIONS

